

AFRICA (Cont'd)

It is usually found in fallow ground.

HIBISCUS PHYSALOIDES

This wild yellow Hibiscus is a beautiful vigorous annual, three to four feet high, with leaves rough to the touch. It is usually found at the coast and flowers in the Autumn.

HIBISCUS SURATTENSIS

This is known as the Orange Trailing Hibiscus and is a rambling herbaceous perennial. Its height is about three to four feet and has hooked prickles on the stems and leaves.

HIBISCUS TRIONUM

This is known as the Dwarf Hollyhock. It is a dainty little plant, six to eight inches, and is found in fallow lands in Autumn. It occurs on the coast and in the midlands of South Africa.

This covers a few of the more common of the indigenous plants available in South Africa. Now to deal with the more interesting subject of the Exotic plants, which really are beautiful.

The Hibiscus family is divided into several groups, of which the following occur in South Africa.

- (1) HIBISCUS SYRIACUS
- (2) HIBISCUS MUTABALIS
- (3) HIBISCUS SCHIZOPETALUS
- (4) HIBISCUS ROSA-SINENSIS

HIBISCUS SYRIACUS

This is also known as the Althaea and is very like a Hollyhock in appearance. There are a considerable number of Hibiscus Syriacus available in South Africa and they include white, double white, pink, double pink, mauve, double mauve, etc., flowers.

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HIBISCUS MUTABALIS

This, which occurs in both single and double form, has large flowers which open pink (or white) and change within twelve hours to a deep rose pink. It is no less than ten feet high and is deciduous. It has an attractive and rose-like flower and is obtainable at any nursery in this country.

HIBISCUS SCHIZOPETALUS

This is a vigorous and erect plant with beautiful pendulous flowers, fringed and imbricated. It is brilliant red in colour and eight feet in height. There is a new variety called Hibiscus Ardenii which is a cross between Hibiscus Schizopetalus and Hibiscus Rosa-Sinensis. In other words, the flowers are very beautiful in this species. They do not hang as they do in the Hibiscus Schizopetalus group but have the fringed and imbricated type of flower in brilliant red.

HIBISCUS ROSA-SINENSIS

This is quite the largest group available in this country. The best description of the species available is given in George Carter & Company (Pty.) Limited's Catalogue, from Pietermaritzburg, Natal, and is as follows:

Hibiscus Campbellii - A most beautiful hybrid Hibiscus with large single pink flowers having a very prominent vermillion eye.

Hibiscus Canary Island - Single, shrimp pink, crimson eye; very attractive; eight feet.

Hibiscus Canary Island Improved - Larger flowers than Island. Very free flowering; eight feet.

Hibiscus Conqueror - Light apricot with deep crimson centre; eight feet.

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